

If it is not but one thing we can remember, and that is that we must all contribute something to make this country a better world, a better life for our children, for all Americans.

Let me thank the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), the gentleman on the other side of the aisle, my dear friend, and all who played a tremendous part in bringing these outstanding Americans to the floor. To give them a Congressional Medal of Honor would be the highest mark of saying thank you.

To Betty Ford and all the others who will be receiving one, we congratulate them as well.

Mr. THOMPSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Houston, Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), one, for his leadership on this issue, and thank my good friends on the other side of the aisle, this has been a collaborative effort; and certainly my colleagues from Arkansas because this is clearly a mark on America's landscape that shares with us the heroics of young people and what they say to America.

This is my tribute to the Little Rock Nine. All of those nine African American students who integrated Central High School in 1957 went on to become college graduates. This is a testimony for America's children. This is certainly a testimony for our African American children of what we can do when we face adversity. And I believe as these young people faced adversity, they opened the eyes of America to excellence, to the value of integration, the value of understanding, the value of commonality, the value of humanity.

All of these members moved away except one, Elizabeth Eckford, who came back, but what is striking is how successful they were.

So I want to pay tribute to them as they have received the Congressional Medal of Honor and to recognize these individuals by name:

Melba Beals, Elizabeth Eckford, Ernest Green, Jefferson Thomas, Gloria Karlmark, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Terrence Roberts, Minnie Jean Brown Trickey, Thelma Mothershed Wair, and certainly to all their family members. We thank them on behalf of America for accepting the challenge that this Nation cannot stand divided.

And might I also congratulate the Jackie Robinson Foundation and family for what this legislation will do for that program as well.

Again, my hat is off to these great heroes of America.

Mr. THOMPSON. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FOX).

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 2560. This is certainly legislation which is bipartisan. We thank the sponsor, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), for introducing the bill, certainly congratulate him for his efforts in this regard and to have this kind of legislation move forward.

The Congressional Gold Medals is certainly fitting and proper in all respects, and certainly one that is appropriate, and I rise and ask that it be unanimously adopted, and I hope that my colleagues will agree that this is legislation that is universal, appropriate and certainly about time.

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, I would like to say thank you to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) for his efforts to bring this about. It is a very onerous process to work through to have one of these bills become law. It requires many signatures and much effort, and he has shown himself to be truly dedicated to the effort by making this happen.

Second, let me say that this is a wonderful and appropriate reason to strike such a gold medal. When we consider the efforts of these then brave young men and women in 1957 to go places and do things literally in Little Rock that had not been done before, it cannot be understated the danger that they were physically in, the emotional stress that they went through to take that step in the right direction for all of us. They did their part to make this country a better place, to enhance the quality of life and opportunities for everyone in this country, and that is very much deserving of this high honor.

But let me also say for a moment or take a moment to express my appreciation to the chairman of this subcommittee, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE). Most likely this is the last piece of legislation that will come to the floor from the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services of the U.S. House. Mr. CASTLE, that I have had the privilege of serving under as a member of this committee for now almost 4 years, has worked diligently in a variety of areas. There have been many concerns among those coin collectors out there in days gone by over how various commemorative programs were handled and how various expenses were affecting the United States Treasury. Mr. CASTLE has worked diligently to bring some rhyme or reason, some sanity to all of those programs. So he is owed in that right a huge debt of gratitude by all of us.

Of course Mr. Flake, the ranking member at the beginning of this session of Congress, and now the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), the ranking member on the subcommittee at the conclusion, have worked their part also, but I must say to the gentleman from Delaware (Mr.

CASTLE), the progress that he has begun in this subcommittee of winning back the faith of those coin collectors out there who we all know are the main source of purchasers of the various numismatic items that we offer from the United States Treasury as a result of many of these pieces of legislation, have to have those issues and concerns addressed.

So with that I thank the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) for his efforts, thank those brave, maybe not quite as young now as they were 40 years ago, young men and women who took those brave and bold steps to make this country, this world, a better place for all of us and for the generations that will come after them.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1900

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2560, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to authorize the President to award gold medals to Jean Brown Trickey, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Melba Patillo Beals, Terrence Roberts, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Thelma Mothershed Wair, Ernest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, and Jefferson Thomas, commonly referred to collectively as the 'Little Rock Nine,' and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUCAS OF OKLAHOMA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2560, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING QUESTION OF PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House rule IX, clause 1, I rise to give notice of my intent to present a Question of Privilege of the House.

Madam Speaker, the form of the resolution is as follows:

RESOLUTION

A resolution, in accordance with House Rule IX, Clause 1, expressing the sense of the House that its integrity has been impugned because the anti-dumping provisions of the Trade and Tariff Act of 1930 (Subtitle B of Title VII) have not been expeditiously enforced;

Whereas the current financial crises in Asia, Russia, and other regions have involved massive depreciation in the currencies of several key steel-producing and steel consuming countries, along with a collapse in the domestic demand for steel in these countries;

Whereas the crises have generated and will continue to generate surges in United States imports of steel, both from the countries whose currencies have depreciated in the crisis and from steel producing countries that are no longer able to export steel to the countries in economic crisis;

Whereas United States imports of finished steel mill products from Asian steel producing countries—the People's Republic of China, Japan, Korea, India, Taiwan, Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia—have increased by 79 percent in the first 5 months of 1998 compared to the same period in 1997;

Whereas year-to-date imports of steel from Russia now exceed the record import levels of 1997, and steel imports from Russia and Ukraine now approach 2,500,000 net tons;

Whereas foreign government trade restrictions and private restraints of trade distort international trade and investment patterns and result in burdens on United States commerce, including absorption of a disproportionate share of diverted steel trade;

Whereas the European Union, for example, despite also being a major economy, in 1997 imported only one-tenth as much finished steel products from Asian steel-producing countries as the United States did and has restricted imports of steel from the Commonwealth of Independent States, including Russia;

Whereas the United States is simultaneously facing a substantial increase in steel imports from countries within the Commonwealth of Independent States, including Russia, caused in part by the closure of Asian markets;

Whereas there is a well-recognized need for improvements in the enforcement of United States trade laws to provide an effective response to such situations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the House of Representatives calls upon the President to—

(1) take all necessary measures to respond to the surge of steel imports resulting from the financial crises in Asia, Russia, and other regions, and for other purposes;

(2) pursue enhanced enforcement of United States trade laws with respect to the surge of steel imports into the United States, using all remedies available under those laws including offsetting duties, quantitative restraints, and other authorized remedial measures as appropriate;

(3) pursue with all tools at his disposal a more equitable sharing of the burden of accepting imports of finished steel products from Asia and the countries within the Commonwealth of Independent States;

(4) establish a task force within the executive branch with responsibility for closely monitoring United States imports of steel; and

(5) report to the Congress by no later than January 5, 1999, with a comprehensive plan for responding to this import surge, including ways of limiting its deleterious effects on employment, prices, and investment in the United States steel industry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I ask to be heard at the appropriate time on the question of whether this resolution constitutes a question of privilege.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will be afforded that opportunity at that time.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I thank the Speaker.

THROTTLING CRIMINAL USE OF GUNS

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 191) to throttle criminal use of guns, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 191

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT TO TITLE 18, UNITED STATES CODE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 924(c) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “(c)” and all that follows through the end of paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(c)(1)(A) Except to the extent that a greater minimum sentence is otherwise provided by this subsection or by any other provision of law, any person who, during and in relation to any crime of violence or drug trafficking crime (including a crime of violence or drug trafficking crime that provides for an enhanced punishment if committed by the use of a deadly or dangerous weapon or device) for which the person may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, uses or carries a firearm, or who, in furtherance of any such crime, possesses a firearm, shall, in addition to the punishment provided for such crime of violence or drug trafficking crime—

“(i) be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 5 years;

“(ii) if the firearm is brandished, be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 7 years; and

“(iii) if the firearm is discharged, be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 10 years.

“(B) If the firearm possessed by a person convicted of a violation of this subsection—

“(i) is a short-barreled rifle, short-barreled shotgun, or semiautomatic assault weapon, the person shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 10 years; or

“(ii) is a machinegun or a destructive device, or is equipped with a firearm silencer or firearm muffler, the person shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 30 years.

“(C) In the case of a second or subsequent conviction under this subsection, the person shall—

“(i) be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 25 years; and

“(ii) if the firearm involved is a machinegun or a destructive device, or is equipped with a firearm silencer or firearm muffler, be sentenced to imprisonment for life.

“(D) Notwithstanding any other provision of law—

“(i) a court shall not place on probation any person convicted of a violation of this subsection; and

“(ii) no term of imprisonment imposed on a person under this subsection shall run concurrently with any other term of imprisonment imposed on the person, including any term of imprisonment imposed for the crime of violence or drug trafficking crime during which the firearm was used, carried, or possessed.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘brandish’ means, with respect to a firearm, to display all or part of the firearm, or otherwise make the presence of the firearm known to another person, in order to intimidate that person, regardless of whether the firearm is directly visible to that person.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3559(c)(2)(F)(i) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting “firearms possession (as described in section 924(c));” after “firearms use;”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the Senate bill, S. 191.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I yield myself so much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am proud today to bring S. 191 before the House. With the passage of this legislation, we take an important step in the battle against firearm violence in America. Support of this legislation today offers Members an opportunity to send a clear message to violent predators that the criminal use of guns will not be tolerated.

The Senate passed S. 191 on November 13, 1997, and the House passed its companion legislation, H.R. 424, on February 24 of this year by a vote of 350 to 59.

The version I now bring to the floor represents a compromise between the House and the Senate. This legislation will have a significant impact on the number of violent criminals behind bars, and I am extremely pleased that we are able to come to an agreement before adjournment.

Madam Speaker, criminals who use firearms to commit violent crimes and drug trafficking offenses demonstrate the ultimate indifference to human life. The risks for law enforcement, and the potential for harm to innocent bystanders, are dramatically increased when criminals wield guns.

Criminals who carry guns while committing serious crimes are making a clear and unequivocal statement to the world, I will hurt you or kill you if you get in my way. Such persons should be punished severely, and that is what this legislation will do.

Consider these frightening facts. According to the National Institute of